

14/8/43.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MYNYDDISLWYN

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1943.





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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH,

Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I have again pleasure in reporting for year ending 31st December, 1943, that the general health of the community has been very good.

The birthrate shows an increase, being 19.7, while the deathrate is 11.5, infantile mortality rate being 54.9.

The notification of Tuberculosis shows a marked increase there being 29 pulmonary cases and 8 non-pulmonary reported, with 3 deaths in each category. A large proportion of these cases was from Pontllanfraith area. These figures are too small to generalize, but it is possible that more use is being made of the local Clinic, and cases are being detected much earlier, while some of them may be suspicious and notified as a precautionary measure.

There were 11 deaths from Cancer, 7 of which were under 65 years of age. There were no deaths from notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis.

575 children were immunized against Diphtheria which means 60.9% of children under 5 and 88.6% of those between 5 and 15.

There has been a very marked reduction in the number of cases of Scabies and Impetigo.

I wish to thank Mr. James and the Council Staff, Dr. D. Rocyn Jones, County Hall, Newport, the staff of the local T.B. Institute, local Medical practitioners and nurses and members of the Council for their co-operation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Offices of the Authority.

A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

C.G. Macray, M.B.

B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

P.S. James, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

County Council.

3. Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.

4. Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing Association.

5. Clinic and Treatment Centres.

County Council.

6. Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

No change from previous report.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again, on the whole (during the year) been excellent in quality and fairly plentiful.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole of the district is supplied with water from the Board's main.

The Engineer to the Board takes samples at regular intervals and ensures a safe supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in the built-up areas are provided with water closets. There, remains, however, a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers: these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Owing to salvaging the collection of refuse was confined to two days a week.

On the disposal of refuse, the centralized system of tipping and control is being carried out very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE YEAR.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year.	872.
(b) Number of notices served - Informal	189.
Statutory.	16.

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance letters were sent to the occupiers and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the Abertillery & District Water Board.

The sanitary conveniences, and the schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the school.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sun-bathing and games. Facilities are also provided for Juvenile instruction and schools received instruction during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 2,249 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency.

The total number of bathers and spectators was as follows: -

Bathers (Adults)	5,213.
Bathers (Juvenile) including School classes.	12,460.
Spectators (Adults)	2,431.
Spectators (Juvenile)	2,381.
	<hr/>
	22,485.
	<hr/>

MORTUARY.

Twelve bodies were taken to your mortuary during the year. The Pathologist and doctors who have the use of the mortuary are highly pleased with the facilities and modern equipment provided.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 296.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 427.
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925. Nil.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. Nil.
3. (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil.
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 187.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

1. (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority. 156

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.
- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 16.
 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.
 - (a) By owners. 16.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, - OVERCROWDING.

A number of houses was overcrowded, and there is little hope of improvement until more houses are built.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector visited the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds within the area during the year and many improvements were effected as a result of such visits.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriological examination.

Visits were made frequently to the shops, bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared for sale.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various food-stuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

(b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

(d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

INQUESTS.

There were six inquests held on persons residing in your area, 1 of which was a coal hewer, colliery engine driver, colliery examiner and four children of school age.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A number of skin diseases occurred in the district, which were dealt with accordingly.

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to the hospitals namely: - Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital Newport, Bedwellty Isolation Hospital and Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table "Notifiable Diseases"

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Strophocide for Puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the Medical Practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>HOSPITAL CASES.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	3	-	-
Diphtheria.	15	11	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	12	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Whooping-cough.	11	-	-
Measles.	318	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

- (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following: -

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
Age	Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	1
20	4	5	-	1	-	1	-	1
25	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
45	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	18	11	1	7	2	1	-	3

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where the patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit, has the premises fumigated, and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a Steam Disinfector bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING, 1943.Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

Population.	Nett Births.		Total births belonging to the District.	
	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
13,310	189	14.18	255	19.76.

Nett deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.	
Number.	Rate.	Non residents registered in the District.	Residents not in the District.
107	8.1	Nil	46

Total deaths belonging to the District.			
Under 1 yr.		All ages.	
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
14	54.9	153.	11.5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1943.NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>Under 1 week.</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks.</u>	<u>1 mth. - 12 mths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Convulsions.	1	-	1	2
Marasmus.	-	-	1	1
Meningitis. (not Tuberculosis).	-	-	2	2
Bronchial Pneumonia.	-	-	1	1
Premature Births.	1	1	2	4
	2	1	7	10

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1943.

Name of District - MYNYDDISL YN U.D.C.

CAUSES.

Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages
of "Residents" occurring within the
District(s)

TOTAL
DEATHS IN
THE
DISTRICT.

CAUSES.	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified (Uncertified))									
Meningitis.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	11
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	14
Heart.	-	-	1	-	-	1	12	11	25
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	8	15
Gastro Enteritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Broncho-Pneumonia.	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	5
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthenia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Convulsions.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Silico Anthracosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Defined Causes.	1	-	2	2	1	4	2	3	15
TOTAL	10	2	3	2	2	12	29	47	107

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

1. <u>CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED</u> <u>DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS</u>	Aged 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years and over but under 15 years.	Total.
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1943.	338	237	575
11. <u>CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED TO DATE</u>	Aged. 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years. and over but under 15 years.	Total
Total estimated number of the children resident in this area who are considered to have been immunised as at the 31st December, 1943.	617	1992	2609

MYNYDDISLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1943.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ended the 31st December, 1943.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	786

Below is given a list of the sanitary defects which were remedied: -

Main, pantry & W.C. roofs repaired.	75
Eaves, gutters & down pipes provided & repaired.	98
Defective drains repaired.	51
Drains opened and cleansed.	68
New flush tanks in W.Cs.	24
Flush tanks repaired in W.Cs.	52
New pans in W.Cs.	21
Ventilation shafts repaired.	14
Dilapidated W.Cs. repaired.	11
Defective W.C. joints etc.	25
New W.Cs. provided.	2
Houses repaired (external)	63
Houses repaired (internal)	59
Cross pools cleansed.	2
Fowls-cot nuisances abated.	-
Pig-sty nuisances abated.	2
Conversion of pails into W.Cs.	2
Overcrowding abated.	11
Dilapidated back-yard re-paved.	15
Dirty premises.	7

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses on register	3
Number of visits made.	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - These important duties were discharged with the same vigilance as in the past.

Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralization of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of the private slaughterhouses in the district, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmwr. However, inspections to the Meat Furveyors' shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and 90 were killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council, and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

In conjunction with the Health Department of the County Council, 135 samples of milk (including repeat samples) were taken for bacteriological tests and the methylene blue tests. Some of the samples were taken at the farm premises, but the majority were ladled out of jacks, serving pails, and churns of retailers on the street; and the standard, bacteriologically, on the whole, was fairly satisfactory.

Retailers whose milk samples were not satisfactory were interveiwed personally and notified that repeat samples would be taken. If the repeat samples were again unsatisfactory the vendors responsible were reported to the Council and further measures were taken to ensure that the milk was brought up to a higher standard.

The most important feature of these samples, however, is in regard to inoculation for tubercle bacillus, none of the tests proving positive. This is a good record and the information is very satisfactory.

Numerous complaints were received of sour milk. It generally applied to milk brought into the district. The matter was taken up with the persons concerned and every effort was made to eliminate this waste of milk.

Visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies during the year, and it was in a few cases only, that the cleanliness was not satisfactory. The farmer was spoken to, and when a revisit was made the conditions were improved.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Cowsheds on register.	49
Number of retail purveyors on register.	53
Number of wholesale purveyors on register.	13
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies.	171

UNSOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption: -

CANNED GOODS, ETC.

Tin Milk	61 tins.	Corn Beef.	12 lb. Tins.
Pork Sausages.	30 lbs.	Luncheon.	42 lbs.
Beans.	20 tins.	Damsons.	8 tins.
Bacon.	40 lbs.	Pinnacle.	5 tins.
Shopped Ham.	2 lbs.	Sausage Meat.	14 lbs.
Fish paste.	72 pots.	Cocoa.	10 lbs.
Chees.	50 lbs.	Carrots.	4 tins.
Rice.	2 lbs.	Pilchards.	2 tins.
Prem.	2 tins.	Sardines.	3 tins.
Golden Syrup.	4 tins.		

FRIED FISH.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly. It was not found necessary to serve any notices or take any "formal" action.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified: -

Small Pox.	-
Scarlet Fever.	3
Diphtheria.	15
Enteric Fever.	-
Tuberculosis - all forms.	37
Erysipelas.	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-

CINEMAS.

Number in the area.	2
Inspections made.	4
Notices served.	-

HOUSING.

Overcrowding was again a matter for careful consideration. A large number of repairs was carried out to house property, but owing to a shortage of labour and building material, the repairs were of a low standard, and, with a number of houses which should have been demolished, but are still occupied, there is a general deterioration of house property.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Owing to the strenuous efforts made in past years to prevent the erection of this type of building for human habitation, very little trouble has been experienced during the year in respect to any new-comers and no case has been before the courts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number in the area	1
Inspections made	4
Notices served.	-

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a.1. - Council Houses infested.	12
	b.2. - Council Houses disinfested.	12
	a.1. - Other Houses infested.	5
	b.2. - Other Houses disinfested	5

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, and in some instances the Fainters Blow-Lamp and Sulphur Candles were used. Sprays with a tin of fluid was supplied on loan to tenants of private houses.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises and if necessary disinfection is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfection is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The refuse tip, and salvage store was visited regularly and baits were laid by Mr. C. Rees part time rodent operative, with good results; he also laid baits at other places when necessary. A survey of the whole of the district was made and a report was submitted to the Ministry of Food, Infestation Branch in accordance with the Infestation Order, 1943.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power.	17	3	-
Factories without mechanical power.	13	3	-
Other premises.	6	-	-
TOTAL	36	6	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding.				
Unreasonable Temperature.				
Inadequate Ventilation.				
Ineffective drainage of floors.				
San. Cons. -				
insufficient.				
Unsuitable or defective.	3	3		
Not separate for sexes.	1	1		
	6	6	-	-

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PERCY S. JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.

1. 1000
2. 1000
3. 1000
4. 1000
5. 1000
6. 1000
7. 1000
8. 1000
9. 1000
10. 1000

(17)